

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims supersedes all previous listings of claims in this matter.

1. – 70. (Cancelled).

71. (Currently Amended) At least one self-steering apparatus fitting for use in a railroad member of a railroad freight car truck between a wheelset bearing and a sideframe pedestal, said that member having a first self-steering apparatus fitting, said at least one member comprising at least one of:

- (a) a bearing adapter for mounting to a casing of a bearing on a rail road car truck wheelset, said bearing adapter being for use in combination with at least one other member having a second fitting of the self-steering apparatus, said at least one other fitting including at least a pedestal seat; said bearing adapter having a pair of axially spaced apart arches formed to seat on a cylindrical casing of a rail road freight car roller bearing having an axis of rotation, and first and second pairs of corner abutments, each pair of corner abutments be spaced to straddle respective ones of a pair of first and second opposed thrust lugs of a rail road freight car sideframe pedestal; said bearing adapter having a metal rolling contact engagement surface for orientation facing away from the wheelset when installed; and said bearing adapter rolling contact engagement surface has a fore-and-aft arcuate profile permitting rolling contact rocking of the wheelset bearing lengthwise relative to the sideframe; and
- (b) a sideframe of a railroad freight car truck, said sideframe having a compression member, a tension member, a first sideframe column and a second sideframe column; said tension member, compression member, first sideframe column and second sideframe column defining bottom, top and sides of a sideframe window formed to receive an end of a freight car truck bolster; said sideframe columns having friction members operable to develop friction when the bolster moves relative to said columns; said tension member extending upwardly to meet said compression member at first and second ends of said sideframe, said sideframe having first and second sideframe pedestals at said first and second ends thereof respectively, each of said sideframe pedestals having a pedestal jaw, each said pedestal jaw including first and second opposed thrust lugs about which corner abutment pairs of a bearing adapter may seat; said pedestals each including a pedestal seat mountable in a pedestal of a sideframe of the railroad car truck, one

said pedestal seat being a first pedestal seat, said first pedestal seat being for use in combination with at least one other member having a second fitting of the self-steering apparatus, said at least one other fitting member including at least a bearing adapter having a pair of axially spaced apart arches formed to seat on a cylindrical casing of a rail road freight car roller bearing, and first and second pairs of corner abutments, each pair of corner abutments being spaced to straddle respective ones of said opposed thrust lugs; said first pedestal seat having a metal rolling contact engagement surface for orientation toward the wheelset; and ~~the pedestal seat~~ said metal rolling contact engagement surface of said first pedestal seat has a fore-and-aft arcuate profile permitting rolling contact rocking of the wheelset bearing lengthwise relative to the sideframe.

72. (Currently Amended) The subject matter of claim 71 wherein said at least one member having said first self-steering apparatus fitting is the bearing adapter of part (a) of claim 71.

73. (Currently Amended) ~~The self-steering apparatus fitting subject matter of claim 72 wherein said bearing adapter has axially spaced arches for seating on a bearing having an axis of rotation, and said bearing adapter rolling contact engagement surface is one of (a) a spherical surface; and (b) a surface having a curvature formed on a body of revolution having an axis parallel to the axis of the bearing.~~

74. (Currently Amended) The subject matter of claim 71 wherein said at least one member having said first self-steering apparatus fitting is the ~~pedestal seat~~ sideframe of part (b) of claim 71.

75. (Currently Amended) ~~The self-steering apparatus fitting subject matter of claim 74 wherein said pedestal seat mounts in a sideframe, the sideframe having sideframe has a long dimension defining a longitudinal axis, and said pedestal seat metal rolling contact engagement surface of said first pedestal seat~~ is one of (a) a spherical surface; and (b) a surface having a curvature formed on a body of revolution having an axis cross-wise to the longitudinal axis of the sideframe.

76. (Currently Amended) ~~The self-steering apparatus fitting subject matter of claim 71 wherein said rolling contact engagement surface having said fore-and-aft arcuate profile also has a cross-wise arcuate profile.~~

77. (Currently Amended) A combination of a first member fitting according to claim 71, and a mating second member, said second member having a mating second self-steering apparatus fitting having another metal rolling contact engagement surface orientable on installation to mate with said metal rolling contact engagement surface having said fore-and-aft arcuate profile, and, when installed in a railroad car truck and co-operatively engaged, said first fitting and said mating second fitting being operable to provide self-steering.

78. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 77 further including a third fitting member, said third fitting member being a resilient member mountable in co-operation with at least one of (a) said first fitting member, and (b) said second fitting member; and said third fitting member being operable to urge said rolling contact surfaces of said first and second fittings members to a centered position relative to each other.

79. (Currently Amended) A combination of the bearing adapter of part (a) of claim 71, and the ~~pedestal seat~~ sideframe of part (b) of claim 71, said bearing adapter and said first pedestal seat being matingly engageable on installation to permit fore-and-aft rolling contact rocking therebetween.

80. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 79 wherein said first pedestal seat and said bearing adapter are also engageable to rock laterally in rolling contact with respect to one another.

81. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 80 wherein the metal rolling contact engagement surface of at least one of (i) said bearing adapter and (ii) said first pedestal seat is formed on a compound surface.

82. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 80 wherein any said rolling contact engagement surface includes a spherical portion.

83. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 79 including at least a third fitting member, said third fitting member being a resilient member mountable to urge said bearing adapter and said first pedestal seat to a centered position relative to each other.

84. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 83 wherein the bearing adapter has an end wall, and said third fitting member is formed to seat between that end wall and a thrust lug of [a] said first sideframe pedestal.

85. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 83 wherein the bearing adapter has at least one end wall, and said third fitting member has a first portion for seating adjacent said end wall, and a second portion at least partially overlying said bearing adapter, said second portion having a relief formed therein to accommodate rocking engagement of said bearing adapter with said first pedestal seat.

86. (Currently Amended) The ~~self-steering apparatus~~ fitting member of claim 71 wherein said fitting member is one of:

- (i) the bearing adapter of part (a) of claim 71, ~~said bearing adapter having a pair of spaced apart arches for seating on a bearing casing~~, and said metal rolling contact engagement surface is a rocker having both lengthwise and cross-wise radii of curvature; and.
- (ii) the ~~pedestal seat~~ sideframe of part (b) of claim 71, and said metal rolling contact engagement surface is a rocker having both lengthwise and cross-wise radii of curvature.

87. (Currently Amended) The ~~self-steering apparatus~~ fitting member of claim 71 wherein said fitting member is the bearing adapter of part (a) of claim 71, for seating on a roller bearing that has first and second axially spaced apart roller bearing races enclosed within a casing, and said ~~bearing adapter~~ has first and second arches are engageable with first and second end regions of the bearing casing, the bearing races being straddled between the arches; and a land for engaging the casing, said land extending between the arches and being relieved at locations above top dead center of the bearing races.

88. (Currently Amended) In combination, (i) the at least one ~~self-steering apparatus~~ fitting member of claim 71 wherein said fitting member is the bearing adapter of part (a) of claim 71; and (ii) a roller bearing, the bearing adapter being for seating on the roller bearing; wherein said bearing has first and second axially spaced apart roller bearing races enclosed within a casing, ~~and said bearing adapter has first and second arches engageable with first and second end regions of the bearing casing, the~~ said bearing races being straddled between the arches ~~of said bearing adapter~~; said bearing adapter has a land for engaging the casing, said land extending between the arches, said land having at least one relief, and said bearing adapter being mounted on said bearing with said at least one relief being positioned axially to sit abreast of, and to overlie, top dead center of at least one of said bearing races.

89. (Currently Amended) A combination of a bearing adapter, ~~a pedestal seat~~ a sideframe having at least a first pedestal seat, and a resilient pad for use with the bearing adapter; at least one of (a) said bearing adapter and (b) said ~~pedestal seat~~ sideframe being the fitting member according to claim 71, wherein the bearing adapter and the first pedestal seat have respective mutually engageable rolling contact surfaces, said resilient pad has a first portion for engaging a first end of the bearing adapter, a second portion for engaging a second end of the bearing adapter, and a medial portion between said first and second end portions, said medial portion being formed to accommodate mating engagement of the ~~rocker members~~ mutually engageable rolling contact surfaces.

90. (Currently Amended) At least one of:

- (i) a bearing adapter for a railroad car truck, said bearing adapter having a pair of arches for seating on the casing of a bearing, said arches being spaced on an axis, and an upwardly facing metal rolling contact surface for engagement with a mating rolling contact ~~rocker element~~ surface, said bearing adapter rolling contact surface having a curvature that is one of (a) spherical; and (b) formed about an axis of a body of revolution, said body of revolution having an axis of revolution parallel to said axis of said arches; and
- (ii) a railroad freight car truck sideframe having a compression member, a tension member, a first sideframe column and a second sideframe column; said tension member, compression member, first sideframe column and second sideframe column defining bottom, top and sides of a sideframe window formed to receive an end of a freight car truck bolster; said sideframe columns having friction members by which friction dampers can work between said columns and the end of the truck bolster; said tension member extending upwardly to meet said compression member at first and second ends of said sideframe, said sideframe having sideframe pedestals at either end thereof, each of said sideframe pedestals having a pedestal jaw, each said pedestal jaw including first and second opposed thrust lugs about which corner abutment pairs of a bearing adapter may seat; said pedestals each including a pedestal seat mountable in a sideframe pedestal of a railroad car truck sideframe one of said pedestal seats being a first pedestal seat, the sideframe having a long dimension defining a longitudinal axis, said first pedestal seat having a metal rolling contact surface for engagement with a mating rolling contact element surface, said pedestal seat metal rolling contact surface of said first pedestal seat having a curvature that is one of (a) spherical; and (b) formed about an axis of a body of revolution, said body of revolution having an axis of revolution cross-wise to said longitudinal axis.

91. (Currently Amended) Both the bearing adapter of part (i) of claim 90 and the ~~pedestal seat sideframe~~ of part (ii) of claim 90 wherein said bearing adapter and said first pedestal seat mate in rolling contact.

92. (Previously Presented) The subject matter of claim 90 in combination with a railroad car truck wheelset bearing.

93. (Previously Presented) The subject matter of claim 90 in combination with a resilient centering member mounted to urge that subject matter to a neutral at rest position.

94. (Previously Presented) A bearing adapter according to part (i) of claim 90 in combination with a railroad car truck wheelset bearing, the bearing having a pair of axially spaced apart, circumferentially extending bearing races contained within a casing, and the bearing adapter having at least one underside relief formed therein, said bearing adapter mating with said casing in use with said relief overlying top dead center of at least one of said bearing races.

95 – 194. (Cancelled)